## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2017

Donald J. Trump President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. President:

As elected representatives of Americans from across the country who are deeply concerned about the future of collective bargaining rights as a matter of public policy, we write to inform you of the mistreatment of American workers in Canton, Mississippi, at the hands of Nissan, to urge you to affirm collective bargaining as a universal and unassailable right, and to ask that you urge the company shift its posture towards the organizing drive at the facility in Canton to neutral.

We are concerned that Nissan has chosen such a tactic against the workers across America, given the company's global reputation for supporting and collaborating with its workers. For over 14 years, Nissan has objected to workers' effort to form a union. The Mississippi plant, as well as two plants in Tennessee, are the company's only plants in the world without unions and meaningful representation.

In our view, the company's anti-union stance and its unsafe work environment go hand in hand. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) found that the company threatened plant closure if the employees choose to unionize. Similarly, other reports mention that the company threatened to shift the jobs to Mexico or China should the workers choose to unionize. At the same time, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) found that Nissan failed to provide "a place of employment which was free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees."

To many observers, it would appear as though the Japanese and French management of the Renault-Nissan Alliance, the parent company of Nissan USA, considers American workers to be less worthy of fair treatment than their foreign counterparts. You've met with leaders from both countries; did you raise these issues with them during your meetings?

Irrespective, we ask that you declare, in no uncertain terms, that American workers have the right to collectively bargain for better and safer working conditions; that foreign companies operating in the United States unequivocally support workers' rights towards collective action as established by the National Labor Relations Act and related statutes; and that Nissan USA make a dramatic shift in policy and adopt a neutral stance towards the August 4<sup>th</sup> NLRB vote.

Given the serious nature of the issues involved in this matter and the potential impact they could have on relations between Japan, France, and the United States, we ask that you respond to each of the concerns raised throughout this note, both publicly and in bilateral discussions with the two countries, as well as directly with signatories of this letter.

Sincerely,

Mark Pocan

Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell

Member of Congress

ohn Conyers, Jr.

Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler

Member of Congress

Bennie Y. thompso

Bennie G. Thompson

Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Member of Congress

Ro Khanna

Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Member of Congress

Rramila Jayapal

Member of Congress

**Donald Norcross** 

Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Member of Congress